
CEQ EQUITY

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time.

for [REDACTED]

From: Tony Davis [<mailto:tdavis789@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Monday, December 16, 2013 4:43 PM

To: Tuss, Taryn L.

Subject: Fw: Questions on the proposed Rosemont Mine near Tucson, AZ from the Arizona Daily Star

Taryn,

Here goes: My sent file shows the questions went out. Not sure how the email went wrong but that's computers--Tony Davis.

My questions:

I attended a press conference this afternoon on the proposed, large, Rosemont copper mine held by Jim Upchurch, the Coronado National Forest Supervisor in Tucson. At the conference, he said that the Forest Service, the EPA, Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service are having discussions with the CEQ acting as "a referee, in a sense," over how to resolve some difficult issues over how to best mitigate impacts of the proposed mine on water supply, water quality, and possibly air quality issues. He said that CEQ is the "arbitrator at the White House level on insuring the agencies have adequately met their NEPA obligations."

We are working on an article for tomorrow's Star on the press conference. I would greatly appreciate it if you or someone else from CEQ could get back to me today or as soon as possible to answer the following questions:

-- Can you confirm CEQ's involvement in what Mr. Upchurch said is a referee role in this process? How much involvement as the council had?

-- Can you give me an assessment of how much progress the various agencies have made toward reaching consensus over mitigation?

-- Mr. Upchurch also has said that the agencies have reached close agreement on the substance of the mine's environmental impacts and that the main differences to resolve now are over mitigation. Can CEQ say if that is an accurate description of the situation?

-- Finally, if the various agencies are unable to reach agreement, one of them might refer this dispute to the CEQ for further study and action. If such a referral occurs, how long of a time frame would CEQ have, legally, to make a decision, or otherwise come to conclusion on the issue?

Thank you very much and sincerely,

Tony Davis
Environmental Reporter
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Horst Greczmiel
Associate Director for NEPA Oversight
Council on Environmental Quality



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

From: Rader, Cliff [mailto:Rader.Cliff@epa.gov]
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2013 5:07 PM
To: Greczmiel, Horst
Subject: FW: CEQ and Rosemont in Arizona Paper

fyi

From: Rader, Cliff
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2013 5:01 PM
To: Bromm, Susan; Kopocis, Ken
Subject: CEQ and Rosemont in Arizona Paper

http://azstarnet.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/white-house-now-tracking-rosemont-mine-progress/article_3787455c-669a-11e3-84b6-0019bb2963f4.html

White House now tracking Rosemont Mine progress

22 MINUTES AGO • [TONY DAVIS ARIZONA DAILY STAR](#)

The White House is informally involved in the contentious Rosemont Mine issue, Coronado Forest Supervisor Jim Upchurch said today.

The White House's Council on Environmental Quality is, in a sense, acting as a referee among various federal agencies that have taken different positions on the mine, Upchurch said at a news conference. The conference was called to discuss the draft decision he released Friday that would, if ratified in a few months, approve a mining layout for the \$1.2 billion copper project in the Santa Rita Mountains.

"We are having substantive discussions with CEQ and other entities," said Upchurch, referring to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service.

The various groups have made "great progress" toward agreeing on the mine's impacts on air and water quality, he said. Only a few months ago all three were writing sharply critical comments accusing the Forest Service of understating the project's impacts.

But Upchurch said that the Forest Service and EPA, for instance, have made lots of progress even since Nov. 7, when EPA wrote its fourth in a series of highly critical letters on the project to other federal agencies.

What remains to be settled is mitigation, and that's what the agencies are trying to work out now, he said.

If the various parties can't agree on how to compensate for the mine's impacts on air and water, one of them could refer the issue to the White House council for formal action. CEQ could, for instance, theoretically determine that the final environmental impact statement recently released by the Forest Service is inadequate and order it rewritten, or conclude there's no problem and allow the approval process to proceed.

Upchurch declined to speculate on the odds of the agencies reaching an agreement without a formal referral to CEQ.

"We're having substantive discussions with the EPA, BLM and park service, to try to resolve these issues," he said.